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FRENCH WEST INDIES.

MARTINIQUE.

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Conditions arising out of the war were particularly favorable to Martinique, and the year 1918 continued to show the unusual prosperity that marked the three years immediately preceding it.

The high prices prevailing for sugar and rum were the responsible factors in trade development. Enormous profits were made from the rum, which, costing about 0.9 franc (normal value of franc 19.3 cents) per liter (0.264 gallon) to produce, sold in the French market as high as 9 francs per liter. Increased transportation facilities toward the close of the year greatly aided the general prosperity of the colony. The old stock of cacao and of vanilla held over from 1917, with the large new crops, was disposed of at most favorable prices. The planters and distillers were those primarily benefited, but all lines of activity felt the effects of this sudden influx of wealth, and business generally received a new impetus.

Shipping Conditions Handicap Foreign Trade.

The total foreign trade of Martinique for the year 1918 aggregated $20,375,247, a decrease of $6,258,356 compared with the year 1917. The total imports of the island were valued at $10,570,794 and exports at $9,804,453. The greatest decrease was in exports, which were $5,911,278 less than those of the previous year. This loss is accounted for by the inability to secure transportation for Martinique products during the year. The loss of $347,078 in the value of imports is also due to the lack of transportation facilities.

The products held in stock from the preceding year began to be moved late in the season in 1918, and a large part of this stock, with the exception of rum, was shipped by the close of the year. Much of the 1917 rum in addition to the 1918 production is still held in stock.

Sugar Leading Agricultural Product.

Martinique depends upon its agriculture products for its commerce and industries. The principal products are sugar, rum, cacao, and pineapples. Sugar cane is the most important product as it supplies the manufacturing industries with their raw material. The cane crop decreased last year because the season was not favorable, because of the lack of potash for fertilizer, the inroads of a cane pest, and the inability to secure labor. The output per acre declines annually and the saccharine content of the cane is also less.

Exports of sugar in 1918 show a decrease of only 169 tons in quantity as against the 1917 exports, but they were 13,972 tons

less than the average shipments for the last five years. The total quantity produced for exportation in 1918 was 20,711 tons. The value of sugar exported in 1918 was $2,889,127 and in 1917, $3,802,630.

Distilling cane juice into rum by the industrial plants is cited as one of the causes for the decline in the production of sugar. Martinique has 15 large sugar centrals but the mills are not operated at full capacity. Small quantities of sugar are produced at some of the distilleries.

Rum Industry.

Rum exports in 1918 amounted to 2,895,144 gallons worth $4,067,824, a decrease of 4,085,466 gallons in quantity and $5,524,399 in value. There were 114 distilleries in operation in 1918, an increase of 14 over the previous year. These plants comprise 25 industrial distilleries which make rum from molasses and sirups; 81 agricultural establishments which are devoted entirely to making rum from cane juice. Many of the latter are located in parts of the country where it would be difficult to take care of the cane produced in any other way. There are also 8 mixed plants which are attached to the sugar centrals and which distill the by-products from the cane not converted into sugar.

During 1918, the agricultural and industrial distilleries manufactured 2,782,767 gallons of rum; the distilleries attached to the sugar factories distilled 1,440,819 gallons, making a total of 4,223,586 gallons for the year. It is estimated that there were in stock on December 31, 1918, 1,231,813 gallons against 862,515 gallons for 1917.

Cacao Products.

The products of the cacao industry rank third in the export trade of Martinique. However, the exports in 1918 give a fictitious importance to the crop for that year not warranted by the facts. Large quantities were held over from the preceding year, which, added to the production of 1918, increased the exports considerably beyond the average. Shipments of cacao in all forms reached 608 metric tons in 1918, or 229 tons more than in 1917. The average exports for the last five years have been 420 metric tons annually. The total value of the cacao exports for 1918 was $377,909, or $172,314 more than for 1917.

No statistics are kept of the production of cacao and estimates made from the export list are unreliable as to the quantity actually produced because exports have been reduced on account of the difficulty of securing cargo space. Moreover, a considerable amount of cacao products is consumed in the domestic market.

Exports of Vanilla, Pineapples, and Coffee.

Vanilla exports also show an increase out of proportion to the regular production. In 1918, 5 tons worth $19,728 were exported as compared with 1.2 tons worth $7,875 in 1917. The average production for the last five years is 1.7 tons. While the weather largely influences the crop, the great increase noted was caused to some extent by holding over some of the 1917 crop and selling it during 1918.

Pineapples showed a slight decrease in quantity but an increase in value in 1918, 134.5 metric tons valued at $53,785 being shipped as against 160.2 tons worth $42,991 in 1917. A small canning factory is conducted on the island; its facilities have recently been improved and the industry is now on a paying basis.

The production of coffee has comparatively little interest for Martinique farmers and the cultivation of Arabian coffee (Mocha) has been almost abandoned. The Liberian variety has taken the place of the Arabian and seems to have acquired in Martinique very fine qualities and the same prices are paid for it as were formerly paid for the Arabian. Very little is consumed at home, the favorable prices received in France making it more profitable to export the entire production. The quantity produced in 1918 was 80 per cent less than the average for the last five years.

Hides and Skins—Distribution of Exports.

Hides and skins are important articles of Martinique's export trade. Shipments in 1918 amounted to 220 metric tons valued at $47,010 against 181.3 tons valued at $44,399 in 1917. France has always taken the hides produced in the island and about two-thirds of the skins. The United States usually takes the remaining third of the skins exported. Recently an embargo was placed on the export of skins and all these products are now taken by France.

The concessions given by the French Government to its colonies secure the products of Martinique for the markets of France. The goods enter France free of duty and this advantage with others offered in the way of freights makes the mother country the best market for Martinique's exports. The United States is the next best customer.

Principal Exports According to Articles.

A list of the most important articles entering into the export trade of Martinique for 1917 and 1918 is shown below. The figures showing quantities and values are copied from the customs record at Fort de France:

Articles.	1917		1918	
	Metric tons.	Value.	Metric tons.	Value.
Ambrette	8.1	$7,230	13.8	$12,092
Cassia	.1	4	.014	1
Cacao:				
Beans	379.2	205,595	441.5	206,850
Butter			33.4	40,229
Powder			133.4	130,830
Cinnamon	3.1	670	1.1	178
Coffee	5.5	3,122	4.7	2,364
Chocolate			7.3	5,324
Campeachy wood			225.3	5,179
Honey			1.8	638
Hides	176.8	41,827	219	46,070
Jams			27	20,581
Lime, citrate of	2	386		
Lime juice	10.1	1,438	65.5	3,850
Pottery	10.9	1,786	35.1	2,097
Oil, essential	.3	309		
Pineapples	160.2	42,991	134.5	53,785
Rum	a6,980,610	9,592,223	a2,895,144	4,067,824
Semolina	9.3	3,287		
Skins	4.5	2,572	1.9	940
Sugar	20,880.8	3,802,630	20,711.9	2,889,127
Vanilla	1.2	7,875	5	19,723
All other articles		13,093		30,778
Reexports		1,988,693		2,265,988
Total		15,715,731		9,804,453

a Gallons.

The reexport trade of Martinique continues to increase, amounting to $1,988,693 in 1917 and $2,265,988 in 1918. Included in the list of reexports are empties returned to the country of origin, implements

and machines returned for repairs, and other returned goods. In addition this trade covers a general line of merchandise in which provisions, foodstuffs, coal, flour, electric apparatus and wire, honey, and coffee are the most prominent. The reexport trade is conducted with the French and British colonies, France, and the United States. The provisions and supplies for French vessels, both war and mercantile, are charged to France. Commercial reports show that of the 52,000 tons of coal imported in 1918, 44,000 tons were reexported.

Invoiced Exports for the United States.

Declared exports to the United States from Martinique totaled $10,684 in value, compared with $14,127 in 1917, a decline of 24 per cent for the year under review. The following table gives the trade in detail for the two years:

Articles.	1917		1918	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Chemicals, drugs, dyes, etc.:				
Lime juice....pounds..	7,494	$940	141	$200
Lime juice....gallons..	1,730	435	.....	436
Lime citrate....pounds..	227	637	.....	.....
Vanilla beans....do....	2,588	7,840	3,036	7,670
Electric dynamo....piece...	.....	.....	1	632
Hides and skins other than fur skins, raw and uncured:				
Goatskins....pieces...	3,003	841	1,693	256
Goatskins....pounds..	2,310		572	
Sheepskins....pieces...	3,477	974	1,718	318
Sheepskins....pounds..	4,213		980	
Oxhides....do....	7,828	1,134	.....	.....
Oils, vegetable:				
Bay....do....	159	236	88	120
Lime....do....	900	847	97	145
Seeds:				
Ambrettes....do....	771	243	2,123	868
Other....	.....	.....	218	39
Total....	.....	14,127	.....	10,684

Returned American goods were valued at $15,505 in 1918 as compared with $10,704 in 1917. There were no exports invoiced for shipment to Hawaii, Porto Rico, or the Philippines in either year.

Origin of Martinique's Imports.

The United States contributes about 50 per cent of Martinique's imports, the 1917 figures being a little above this percentage and the 1918 record a little below it. The British colonies, France, the French colonies, Venezuela, Panama, and Argentina, all are important factors in this branch of foreign commerce, as indicated by the following table which shows the origin and value of articles imported into Martinique in 1917 and 1918:

Countries of origin.	1917	1918	Countries of origin.	1917	1918
Argentina	$10,047	$119,966	Netherlands	$2,226	.....
Brazil	11,385	1,436	Panama	6,174	$483,361
British Empire:			Peru	1,158	.....
Colonies	1,460,945	1,657,929	Porto Rico	39,399	61,006
India	16,605	.....	St. Christopher	.....	5,387
United Kingdom	597,664	867,551	St. Croix	6,677	.....
Chile	321,264	.....	St. Martin	12,403	10,020
Colombia	785	9,379	St. Thomas	6,947	3,800
Curaco	.....	7,210	Spain	1,301	58
Dominican Republic	38,579	66,313	Surinam	.....	6,502
Dutch Guiana	24,165	.....	Switzerland	6,355	2,299
Ecuador	6,199	4,265	United States	5,652,702	5,110,592
France	2,056,858	1,201,842	Venezuela	411,728	650,560
French colonies	205,808	192,703	All other countries	17,677	19,533
Haiti	1,576	89,182			
Italy	1,205	.....	Total	10,917,872	10,570,794

Change in Trend of Trade with France and United Kingdom—Latin American Trade.

Import trade with France continued to decline, amounting to only 11 per cent of the total in 1918. Prior to the war France furnished over 50 per cent of all imported products, shipments consisting principally of manufactured articles. The imports from the United Kingdom and its colonies show a decided increase over those of the previous year. The commodities purchased from Great Britain are coal, earthenware, cotton, linen, and silk fabrics, and electric wires; from the colonies come salted meats, fish, other foodstuffs, sugar, beer and porter, kerosene, cotton, silk, and woolen fabrics, wearing apparel, and other articles.

South America supplies jute and cotton bags, tobacco, coffee, fertilizers, provisions, and wearing apparel. From the West Indies come live animals, agricultural apparatus, beer, fertilizers, cigars and cigarettes, coal, and provisions. Martinique's trade with Venezuela has assumed importance in the past few years, the Republic having furnished in 1918 1,202 metric tons of live animals for butchering. It also furnished 6,000 tons of guano for fertilizer. Porto Rico supplied 1,150 tons of guano. Other fertilizers imported were 427 tons of nitrate of soda, 464 tons of superphosphate of lime, 458 tons of sulphate of ammonia, and 1,236 tons of compound fertilizers.

United States Leading Country of Origin.

Approximately half of Martinique's imports come from the United States, American goods comprising articles of every class. The following table shows the principal articles imported into Martinique from United States in 1918, with the quantity and value compared with the total quantity and value of imports from all countries. This statement is compiled from the customs record of Martinique (francs have been reduced to dollars at the normal rate of exchange, 19.3 cents to the franc):

Articles.	From United States.		From all countries.	
	Metric tons.	Value.	Metric tons.	Value
Asbestos	10.6	$2,421	36	$5,913
Batteries, storage	1.8	1,880	1.8	1,880
Blacking	2.8	1,870	8.7	6,596
Breadstuffs:				
Biscuits	19.18	4,533	83.5	18,034
Bran	16.8	1,156	16.8	1,156
Corn	19.8	2,107	464.7	43,886
Corn flour	15.4	2,071	75.5	8,337
Flour	2,134.5	349,838	5,561.3	1,139,351
Oats	112.7	12,521	115	12,714
Rice	1,140	207,393	2,653	470,496
Brushmakers' ware	1.1	1,748	6	7,105
Candles	33.3	14,856	49.6	26,535
Cars, carriages, and other vehicles:				
Automobiles	[a] 51	57,734	[a] 54	61,073
Automobile parts	37.8	27,715	42.7	31,767
Bicycles	[a] 20	695	[a] 36	1,603
Bicycle parts	.....	130	.....	2,017
Other	.....	1,655	.....	1,655
Cement	2,270	86,534	2,338.8	88,384
Chemicals:				
Sulphur, purified	21.5	2,517	21.7	2,594
Sulphuric acid	29.7	4,385	33.6	5,347
Coal	37,303	1,048,442	51,667	1,444,732
Coffee	38.1	9,842	152	53,808

[a] Number.

Articles.	From United States.		From all countries.	
	Metric tons.	Value.	Metric tons.	Value.
Copper, and manufactures of:				
Ware	21.9	$34,160	22.2	$35,765
Bars	2.5	2,557	2.5	2,557
Hammered and rolled	25.1	31,937	26.1	33,416
Wire	1.4	1,160	1.7	1,539
Detached	.7	1,139	1	4,797
Earthen, stone, and china ware:				
China, decorated	5.2	2,667	15.8	7,576
China, white	4.5	2,487	12.3	6,911
Earthenware	21.8	4,750	34.4	10,108
Earthenware, glazed	5.6	1,527	20.4	5,695
Cotton manufactures:				
Bags, used	.....	5,481	.....	22,220
Cloth, bleached	a 24,381	10,028	a 157,472	38,543
Cloth, unbleached	.....	36,195	.....	150,890
Cloth, brilliant	a 42,066	11,357	a 96,096	21,791
Cloth, dyed	a 136,434	18,955	a 410,149	67,307
Cloth, yarn-dyed	a 105,101	14,294	a 496,137	90,806
Cloth, printed	a 221,861	25,569	a 1,090,756	148,130
Clothing, made	.....	14,477	.....	82,258
Clothing, workmen	.....	1,376	.....	2,882
Handkerchiefs	.89	3,371	3.2	10,124
Muslin, ornamented	.....	1,732	.....	2,890
Quilts, counterpanes	.....	1,274	.....	2,450
Fertilizers:				
Guano	.....	.....	1,550	41,140
Other	.....	.....	6,025	132,570
Fibers, vegetable, and textile grasses:				
Cotton thread	17.6	1,584	.....	37,671
Cotton waste	2.5	1,451	6.1	2,762
Cordage, twine	17.6	12,237	89.7	67,753
Hats, panamas	b 3,000	6,948	b 6,196	17,010
Hats, straw	b 950	581	b 26,196	15,400
Hemp cloth, dyed	a 12,289	2,180	a 19,252	3,905
Jute bags, new	.....	39,611	.....	86,815
Jute bags, used	.....	9,460	.....	20,135
Knit goods	2.1	6,555	7.65	19,142
Linen, bleached	a 1,749	2,600	a 3,228	3,978
Linen, unbleached	a 437	154	a 3,673	1,545
Linen, table, damask, dimity	.....	1,210	.....	2,548
Mixed	a 1,319	1,109	a 3,149	2,973
Oilcloth	2.5	1,748	6.9	3,672
Suspenders	.....	241	.....	6,241
Tow, tared	2.6	1,277	11.8	8,770
Yarns, linen, and hemp	.....	596	.....	13,234
Fish:				
Codfish	316.7	81,423	1,736.7	416,727
Herrings, salted	20.4	5,058	49	11,851
Sardines	5.2	2,938	9.8	7,707
Glass and glassware:				
Bottles, demijohns	7	2,353	8.5	6,225
Common glass	5	1,968	5.8	2,190
Goblets, plain, pressed	20.6	8,266	28.5	12,117
Goblets, cut, decorated	10.9	4,480	18.1	8,474
Glass articles	.....	3,162	.....	4,858
Lamps, electric	.7	2,378	1	3,293
Lamp chimneys	6	4,421	6.6	4,560
Gold and silver, manufactures of, including jewelry:				
Gold or platinum	.002	2,494	.003	33,583
Jewelry	.....	1,276	.....	9,991
Plated or silverware	.....	487	.....	18,168
Watches	.....	145	.....	2,673
Watchcases	.....	502	.....	7,845
Honey	.....	.....	108.4	42,846
Household articles:				
Brooms	.6	355	3.6	1,184
Chairs	21.5	8,769	29	10,236
Osier	1.7	2,112	5.8	4,701
Other	23.7	9,107	32.7	16,783
Wickerware	1.2	1,216	1.3	1,233
Ink	c 237	1,519	c 840	2,644
Iron and steel, manufactures of:				
Anchors, cables, and chains	14.9	8,215	46.4	16,225
Castings	6.1	2,827	11.5	3,927
Cast iron	16.1	4,716	20.2	5,890
Cutlery	.337	1,550	1.96	3,712
Hoops and bands	821.7	147,447	825.9	148,241
Household articles—				
Beds, iron	50.2	14,558	57.7	15,690
Enameled	5.3	2,354	7.7	3,917

a Yards. b Number. c Gallons.

Articles.	From United States.		From all countries.	
	Metric tons.	Value.	Metric tons.	Value.
Iron and steel, manufactures of—Continued.				
Household articles—Continued.				
Painted and polished	5	$1,904	5.4	$2,302
Turned	3.1	1,477	6.2	3,231
Iron or steel	51.5	26,154	73	38,834
Jointing	1.5	876	1.5	876
Locks	8.7	4,183	14.1	6,771
Machines and machinery—				
Agricultural	16.5	3,681	118.2	17,657
Apparatus not specified	86.9	59,009	133.8	70,859
Boilers, single	6	1,112	15.8	4,310
Boilers, tubular	5	2,123	19.6	4,732
Dynamos	1.55	1,390	1.57	1,583
Electric apparatus	5.5	6,014	268.5	143,354
Hydraulic pumps	4.4	5,671	5.9	6,057
Iron implements	7.7	3,280	11.8	4,722
Locomotives	9.4	8,427	9.4	8,427
Machine tools	2.9	1,380	2.9	1,380
Metal parts	1.7	2,241	9.2	8,840
Sewing machines	.9	7,654	1	8,090
Steam pumps	6.4	7,490	6.4	7,490
Steel tools	12.4	7,535	19.7	10,393
Transmission	11.8	7,961	18.1	10,101
Typewriters	a 70	4,386	a 71	4,396
Nails	58.7	12,140	61.1	13,209
Nails, horseshoe	4.1	1,583	4.7	1,991
Nails, wire	41	9,774	50.3	12,854
Screws, bolts, and nuts	47.2	15,370	51.8	17,461
Sheets, rolled	56.6	9,786	62.9	11,403
Springs, steel	2.1	949	2.2	1,061
Tubes, welded	113.1	34,227	115.8	35,280
Leather, and manufactures of:				
Belting	.92	3,500	1	3,673
Curried	.16	1,080	4.5	27,213
Patent	.18	663	4.3	21,497
Shoes	10.2	39,387	54.3	120,285
Tanned	1.1	6,127	42.8	78,365
Lead pipes	4.5	1,208	6	1,580
Matches	35.7	33,012	49.2	49,700
Meats and dairy products:				
Beef, salted	18.3	6,978	25.6	11,702
Meats, canned	4.4	3,882	9.6	8,700
Lard	55.9	31,786	96.5	51,800
Pork, salted	213.8	68,636	258	82,163
Sausages, preserved	8.7	8,722	9.3	9,145
Tallow	2.2	1,591	6.4	4,872
Butter	19.5	14,730	29.7	27,830
Cheese	18.1	24,570	20.2	26,711
Milk, condensed	3.1	1,227	4.2	1,580
Milk with sugar	12.3	4,881	12.3	4,881
Oleomargarin	127.7	68,562	156.8	82,103
Metals, and manufactures of:				
Aluminum in bars	127.2	20,834	127.5	20,860
Aluminum sheets and angles	15.2	2,397	15.2	2,397
Aluminum ware	1.1	2,145	1.2	2,402
Lead, hammered and rolled	3.6	735	5.4	1,434
Nickel	.6	841	.7	1,200
Metal lamps	3.6	4,008	5.2	5,230
Tin, in bars and sheets	2.7	1,641	6.6	6,736
Tin, rolled	1	522	1.8	1,067
Tinware	2.3	640	3.3	1,808
Zinc	.8	1,087	1	1,380
Musical instruments:				
Pianos	a 26	8,048	a 26	8,048
Phonographs	a 28	1,155	a 41	1,440
Oils and greases:				
Mineral—				
Kerosene	406.364	50,190	753.230	90,275
Gasoline	710.646	125,728	794.594	141,993
Heavy oils	140.053	23,978	1,365.466	128,605
Vegetable—				
Castor	3.5	1,943	3.8	2,230
Cottonseed	569.4	292,580	706	371,880
Linseed	37.4	18,143	42.2	20,272
Spirits of turpentine	3.8	1,177	5	1,594
Other vegetable fats	.9	439	2	1,467
Paper, articles of:				
Cardboard	3.7	837	5.3	1,826
Boxes	9.3	1,118	22	4,280
Card, fancy	.6	837	3.8	4,580

a Number.

Articles.	From United States.		From all countries.	
	Metric tons.	Value.	Metric tons.	Value.
Paper, articles of—Continued.				
Card, other	54.2	$11,306	152.4	$50,883
Sheets	7.5	2,057	7.9	2,112
Paints ground in oil	21.7	6,972	31.1	10,470
Paints, not specified	8.8	2,362	24	7,691
Rubber:				
Belting	1.2	878	2.1	3,690
Clothing	.415	1,376	1.4	2,883
Shoes	2	2,290	3.1	3,714
Tires, solid	1.8	10,157	1.8	10,157
Tires, inner tubes	30.3	58,110	35.7	73,963
Silk manufactures:				
Fabrics, plain	a 3,416	3,328	a 8,146	8,174
Fabrics, mixed	a 24,130	12,162	a 43,423	22,993
Knit goods		1,477		2,236
Silks		2,700		16,191
Soap, perfumed	1.8	1,251	10.6	5,647
Soap, unperfumed	93.3	22,275	352.5	89,705
Spirits, wines, malt liquors, and other beverages:				
Beer, porter	b 21,160	16,932	b 33,414	29,245
Wine in casks	b 45,281	62,742	b 106,286	146,734
Wine in bottles	b 36	111	b 2,870	7,116
Stone, and manufactures of:				
Marble, worked	13.8	1,616	26.1	4,448
Millstone	18.4	748	31.8	1,195
Emery on fabric	2.9	1,315	3.6	1,618
Sugar and molasses		2,958		4,573
Tobacco, and manufactures of:				
Tobacco, manufactured	.9	584	28.3	32,315
Tobacco, leaf	59.6	26,055	59.9	26,190
Cigars	.1	728	.6	2,452
Cigarettes	.3	882	9	14,094
Toys: Games and toys	2.8	2,545	6.3	8,897
Vegetables:				
Beans	23	7,367	127.2	30,877
Garlic	1.7	601	49.5	14,680
Lentils	7.7	3,058	11.7	4,978
Peas	12.4	4,041	33.3	8,095
Onions	77.5	12,480	166	27,963
Potatoes	238	20,547	360	31,670
Other	20.1	6,227	75.1	13,140
Wood manufactures:				
Boards over 35 millimeters	3,441.972	73,203	3,648.942	177,390
Boards less than 35 millimeters	2,659.750	142,074	2,767.720	150,060
Boards, planed	93.116	10,095	93.116	10,095
Laths and splints	73.700	8,678	137.600	9,795
Hoops and poles	.800	173	100.085	7,150
Railway ties			461.993	12,194
Shooks, barrels	2,614.503	285,620	2,646.863	286,077
Staves	807.750	41,890	813.720	43,450
All other articles		625,992		1,753,726
Total		5,110,592		10,570,794

a Yards. b Gallons.

Fewer American Ships in Carrying Service—Shipping Statistics.

The transportation service of Martinique was greatly hampered in 1918 for the want of vessels in the ocean trade, and although a greater tonnage was provided than in the preceding year the quantity of goods shipped was 30 per cent less than in ordinary seasons prior to 1917. That year's record was the first to show the effect of the loss of ships.

During the last five years the tonnage entering and departing from Martinique was as follows: For 1913, 953,942 tons; 1914, 932,953 tons; 1915, 937,308 tons; 1916, 948,104 tons; 1917, 810,302 tons; an average of 916,521 tons for the five years. For 1918 the imports were 404,677 tons and exports 405,625 tons, total 810,302 tons; less than the average by 106,219 tons.

The total number of vessels of all nationalities entered during 1918 was 721, with 14,125 men and 325,714 tonnage; 681 vessels

cleared with 13,694 men and 292,770 tonnage; 40 of the vessels that entered were American with 517 men and 22,487 tonnage; 37 of them cleared with 496 men and 20,605 tonnage. This record indicates a large decline in the number of American vessels entering the ports of Martinique. In the preceding year 64 American vessels entered with a registered tonnage of 38,970 tons.

American sailing vessels were practically stopped from carrying freight to Europe from Martinique during the year 1918, and this fact accounts for part of the loss in the foreign transportation service. One of the peculiar features of this trade in 1918 was that the number of French vessels increased 51 over 1917 and the number of foreign vessels decreased 213. The French vessels carried 366,625 tons in 1918.

The nationality, number, and tonnage of vessels that entered and cleared Martinique ports during 1918 are given in the next table:

Nationality.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
French	223	182,343	228	184,282
British	282	84,598	276	76,631
American	40	22,487	37	20,605
Norwegian	13	14,933	.....	.....
Russian	12	3,394	9	2,306
Danish	5	962	4	773
Venezuelan	122	7,264	107	6,802
Dutch	19	1,346	15	919
Portuguese	1	427	1	183
Dominican	3	331	4	269
Brazilian	1	7,629	.....	.....
Total	721	325,714	681	292,770

Coastwise Shipping—Automobile Service—Banks and Finance.

The domestic transportation of the island for both passengers and freight is carried on by a line of small steamers leaving Fort de France and touching at the important points on the coast. Small sailing vessels also carry freight between the coast harbors and Fort de France; still smaller sailing vessels conduct a large freight business on the bay.

No public railways have been constructed in Martinique. Automobiles carry mail and passengers to all of the important points of the island daily, except those which are accommodated by steamers. The streets of Fort de France have been greatly improved, and the highways leading to the principal points of the island are kept in good condition, although no new highways have been opened.

The bank deposits reflect the healthy situation prevailing in Martinique. The bank situation for June 30, 1918, shows the deposits to be 11,534,353 francs compared with 9,111,152 francs for 1917 ($2,226,130 compared with $1,758,452, normal exchange).

The establishment of a branch of the Royal Bank of Canada, a Canadian institution with large international connections, has done much to open up new avenues of finance and trade. Its coming has brought the colony into closer touch with the outside world, and it offers, moreover, the advantages of local competition, the Bank de la Martinique having been alone in this field for years.

Industrial Development—Investments and Public Works.

The number of manufacturing industries in Martinique has been increasing, although most of the plants are small. The factories in operation are: 15 sugar factories, 114 rum distilleries, 8 limekilns, 1 factory for canning pineapples, 1 factory where chocolate powder and cocoa butter are made, 1 factory for alimentary pastes, 2 ice factories, 2 forges and foundries, 1 copper shop, 1 tile, terra-cotta, and brick factory, 11 gaseous-water factories, and 4 printing houses. The cooperage mentioned was remodeled by Americans and made into a first-class shop.

Fruits put up in various forms, jams particularly, have been gaining in importance as export products. This industry was probably encouraged by the preparations sent to the soldiers in France during the war.

There is little demand for investment funds in the colony, and little has been done for improvements. But large sums have gone out of the country, both to the United States and France for investment purposes there. A great demand exists for new buildings for both business and residential purposes. Rents have increased beyond reason, some buildings renting at an advance of 300 per cent above the rate prior to the war.

GUADELOUPE.

By Consul Henry T. Wilcox, Basse Terre.

In spite of the many handicaps caused to commerce by the war the total trade of Guadeloupe during 1918 was worth $17,518,000, $130,000 more than the total for 1917, which was the highest ever recorded in the colony. The year 1918 was a prosperous one for all classes who were able by means of augmented wages and the high prices paid for the island's products to offset the high cost of living.

Trade by Countries.

The following table shows the values of the imports and exports of the colony, by countries, for the years 1917 and 1918:

Countries.	Imports.		Exports.	
	1917	1918	1917	1918
British Colonies	$643,453	$1,656,371	$1,525	$21,093
Dominican Republic	.....	275,454	.....	.....
France	1,964,045	1,198,649	9,289,609	8,515,980
French colonies	157,498	178,408	94,311	292,275
United States	4,272,471	3,632,813	63,975	164,209
Venezuela	30,271	159,503	4,840	.....
All other countries	557,924	560,141	290	.....
Total	7,625,662	7,661,339	9,454,550	8,993,557

Reexports in 1917 were worth $307,654 in 1917 and $863,112 in 1918.

The effect of the war on the trade of the island is clearly shown by these figures. Although the value per unit of all kinds of merchandise was higher in 1918 than during previous years, the value of imports from the two principal sources of supply, France and the United States, fell off 38 and 14 per cent respectively, thus showing

that the quantities of goods received from these countries were much reduced. On the other hand, as a result of receipts from British and French colonies of codfish, flour, and rice for local consumption and of cacao for transshipment to France, the imports from these colonies show large increases. The increased value of exports in 1918 to French colonies and the United States was the result of large shipments of molasses and rum to Martinique and the large consignment of vanilla which went as usual to American markets. Reexports representing tobacco and hides sent here from the Dominican Republic and Venezuela for transshipment to France were 180 per cent greater than in 1917.

Imports from the United States.

Many of the articles from the United States were much reduced in quantity and, in some cases, in value during 1918. These reductions were caused by American restrictions on exportations. Trade between the colony and the United States probably would have broken all records if commerce had been unrestricted. The following table gives the quantity and value of imports from all countries during 1917 and 1918 compared with the quantity and value of imports from the United States during these two years:

Articles.	Total imports.				Imports from United States.			
	1917		1918		1917		1918	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Alimentary fats:								
Lard.....pounds..	114,241	$33,137	142,780	$62,515	103,790	$30,448	142,712	$62,480
Tallow.....do....	76,531	17,015	13,307	3,380	61,240	13,654	6,173	1,525
Other animal fats.do....	316,954	86,139	336,565	121,806	167,454	46,264	335,290	121,352
Vegetable fats.....do....	260,541	65,418	271,628	95,910	233,000	58,842	261,423	93,225
Animals:								
Horses.....number..	7	791	29	9,882	.....	.....	25	9,650
Mules.....do....	40	4,632	21	6,651	8	1,544	21	6,651
Arms and ammunition.....	.....	7,857	.....	13,640	.....	155	.....	645
Beverages:								
Beer.....gallons...	13,618	16,405	14,236	18,905	8,644	9,418	14,041	18,663
Liqueurs.....do....	21,854	55,690	10,900	39,333	.....	.....	12	27
Vinegar.....do....	1,913	840	2,325	3,192	.....	.....	97	105
Wine, ordinary...do....	319,532	291,125	97,339	139,229	747	622	3,180	4,576
Breadstuffs:								
Biscuits.....pounds..	754,100	66,378	96,600	12,507	502,650	43,817	29,920	2,764
Corn.....bushels..	6,571	18,327	6,010	20,965	6,023	17,090	945	3,210
Corn meal.....barrels..	204	2,346	362	5,000	196	2,276	329	4,457
Flour.....do....	55,800	784,395	31,500	625,885	51,925	737,972	27,157	538,163
Oats.....bushels..	16,100	21,033	9,583	16,775	15,868	20,707	9,583	16,775
Rice.....pounds..	7,835,040	405,626	13,071,206	1,370,062	2,043,488	163,221	2,757,500	294,906
Buttons.....do....	7,374	3,900	3,972	3,504	.....	.....	250	571
Cacao.....do....	635,680	74,347	853,965	224,392	.....	.....	.....	.....
Candles:								
Wax.....do....	45,078	11,670	9,151	3,188	.....	.....	.....	.....
Other.....do....	182,083	48,671	85,382	38,093	24,414	952	25,600	11,260
Cement.....barrels..	8,413	83,953	6,606	51,074	7,434	74,193	6,543	50,638
Coal.....tons..	7,580	139,121	3,057	99,126	7,430	136,805	2,434	86,000
Coke.....do....	254	4,276	26	863	154	2,296	20	572
Confectionery.....pounds..	17,114	4,570	13,077	3,840	2,668	800	2,638	916
Cordage.....do....	326,800	85,859	148,036	56,393	139,367	36,602	88,377	37,274
Dairy products:								
Butter.....do....	22,842	7,670	15,133	7,323	3,373	977	2,756	1,303
Cheese.....do....	24,211	15,350	25,590	18,385	15,120	11,074	21,517	15,620
Condensed milk ..do....	2,960	679	6,834	1,735	1,184	310	6,717	1,764
Fertilizers.....tons..	5,411	456,908	435	69,927	5,032	428,403	274	47,490
Fish, salted:								
Cod.....pounds..	2,501,153	287,309	2,459,756	374,659	895,478	112,661	720,000	109,188
Herring.....do....	306,088	35,238	141,966	20,957	288,400	32,838	141,966	20,957
Glassware.....	.....	28,463	.....	23,410	.....	10,295	.....	9,832
Hats, straw.....	.....	40,626	.....	14,911	.....	.....	.....	100
Hides.....pounds..	106,900	27,315	413,500	103,378	1,473	1,230	240	105

Articles.	Total imports.				Imports from United States.			
	1917		1918		1917		1918	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Iron and steel manufactures:								
Machinery and tools	.....	$405,300	.....	$331,087	.....	$277,882	.....	$201,066
Other	.....	181,282	.....	100,253	.....	160,070	.....	83,900
Jewelry	.....	73,575	.....	19,825	.....	1,864	.....	.....
Matches.....pounds	38,764	16,747	68,405	36,347	36,574	15,800	61,158	31,237
Meats:								
Canned.....do	38,133	14,678	11,330	4,731	31,300	12,040	9,100	3,900
Salt beef.....do	191,040	28,283	104,900	24,174	175,565	26,871	104,900	24,174
Salt pork.....do	790,061	133,774	526,658	115,036	776,027	131,725	526,804	114,931
Oils:								
Cottonseed.....do	771,966	156,800	1,310,342	396,878	731,458	149,314	1,294,615	391,018
Corn.....do	819,159	152,785	15,140	4,915	711,240	134,369	6,150	2,478
Heavy mineral oils, pounds	453,616	14,577	436,222	23,682	442,361	14,181	414,000	22,346
Kerosene and gasoline, pounds	2,148,880	133,350	1,862,362	138,807	2,127,603	131,318	1,851,100	137,610
Linseed.....do	69,737	11,444	69,225	15,110	37,707	4,515	65,212	14,153
Olive.....do	56,833	15,466	3,483	2,170	187	61	33	18
Paints and colors..pounds	131,334	20,843	102,528	32,800	52,980	8,183	61,820	23,334
Paper.....do	447,886	39,565	279,832	38,607	171,704	10,400	151,751	14,656
Perfumery.....do	48,000	12,190	33,473	11,650	408	386	558	1,036
Pottery.....do	738,270	33,667	448,206	19,681	29,920	2,777	58,246	3,675
Rubber goods.....do	10,190	7,974	12,950	17,177	5,290	4,266	9,070	9,892
Salt.....tons	1,204	22,375	1,374	17,022	.....	.....	.....	.....
Shoes.....pairs	59,161	88,110	65,757	132,313	11,142	26,130	32,385	90,790
Soap.....pounds	1,300,727	129,285	653,688	84,825	1,130,917	113,638	484,000	61,910
Thread, cotton	.....	24,851	.....	21,227	.....	1,042	.....	1,050
Textiles:								
Cotton goods	.....	507,976	.....	493,427	.....	101,000	.....	135,745
Jute bags.....pounds	1,205,000	181,130	1,285,100	193,290	238,980	27,780	260,313	36,342
Ready-made clothing	.....	76,308	.....	75,620	.....	3,800	.....	17,961
Silk goods	.....	35,462	.....	41,131	.....	2,406	.....	7,635
Woolen goods	.....	29,165	.....	24,375	.....	915	.....	1,912
Tobacco, and manufactures of:								
Cigarettes.....pounds	55,340	49,900	27,910	28,102	29	26	112	127
Leaf.....do	170,088	49,583	1,144,618	251,805	160,118	46,932	90,540	33,490
Prepared.....do	42,685	44,642	6,768	8,330	7	7	80	92
Umbrellas	.....	12,300	.....	13,970	.....	116	.....	262
Vegetables:								
Onions.....bushels	4,930	19,741	5,438	23,492	166	793	1,353	5,957
Garlic.....do	984	13,217	1,217	11,652	15	152	2	56
Potatoes.....do	9,800	24,785	9,500	35,050	3,210	8,326	5,900	22,623
Other dry vegetables, pounds	448,380	77,347	427,928	82,974	231,530	45,934	228,290	46,943
Vehicles, and parts of:								
Automobiles..number	114	132,000	75	107,900	108	123,900	62	84,550
Parts	.....	25,265	.....	13,423	.....	4,440	.....	2,243
Wood, and manufacturers of:								
Furniture	.....	20,390	.....	24,380	.....	17,790	.....	18,186
Lumber—								
Pine—								
White	.....	116,254	.....	11,800	.....	116,254	.....	5,308
Pitch	.....	119,060	.....	70,150	.....	119,060	.....	49,875
Shooks and staves	.....	429,232	.....	125,400	.....	380,880	.....	210,500
All other articles	.....	712,495	.....	852,906	.....	49,671	.....	147,068
Total	.....	7,625,662	.....	7,661,339	.....	4,272,471	.....	3,632,813

American Goods in Demand.

The importations of all kinds of beverages from France were much reduced in 1918 because of scarcity and high prices. This is most clearly seen in the figures for ordinary wines which show a reduction in quantity of 69 per cent. Beer and wine from the United States, however, were imported in greatly increased quantities. It is interesting to note in comparing the above statistics that while the receipts of biscuits and flour during 1918 were much less than in 1917 the colony was fortunate enough to secure sufficient rice from British possessions to make up for the lack of other breadstuffs. As stated above the heavy imports in 1918 of cacao, hides, and tobacco were intended for

the markets of France. The figures for condensed milk, though small, are significant in that they show an increasing demand for this commodity. As it was next to impossible to secure corn oil and olive oil the importers substituted cottonseed oil, but the total purchases of edible oils were 319,496 pounds less than in 1917.

American goods of all kinds were more appreciated than ever before and hope was expressed on all sides that the burden imposed by the French preferential tariff on goods from foreign countries would be changed after the war to allow American commodities to compete with those from France when French exporters are again able to offer their products. American exporters who desire to sell to merchants of Guadeloupe should quote their most reasonable prices, conduct their correspondence in French, and do their utmost to comply with the desires of the customers. Otherwise it is to be expected that within a few years a large part of the trade gained during the war will return to France.

Exports According to Articles.

The figures for the total exports of the products of the colony for 1917 and 1918 are given in the following table:

Articles.	1917		1918	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Cacao.....pounds..	1,701,020	$425,207	2,550,000	$644,295
Coffee.....do....	1,110,625	271,713	2,373,478	797,245
Rum.....gallons..	3,342,690	4,875,135	1,894,027	3,265,774
Sugar and molasses:				
Molasses.....do....	160,100	35,090	167,600	47,774
Sugar.....tons..	30,382	3,650,927	26,604	3,924,677
Vanilla and vanillin.....pounds..	41,985	67,824	92,720	203,427
All other articles.....	.....	128,654	.....	110,365
Total.....	.....	9,454,550	.....	8,993,557

In past years more than 94 per cent of the exports went to France where they brought very high prices as a result of the protection granted by the French Government to colonial products. Sugar, which until 1917 held first place among the island's exports, again headed the list in 1918. This was the result of the Government regulation which required the sugar centrals to use the cane juice for the manufacture of sugar and to limit the production of rum to that made from molasses and residue.

Declared Exports to the United States.

Although 47 per cent of the imports in 1918 was composed of American goods the shipments to the United States amounted to only 1.5 per cent of the colony's exports. The principal article was vanilla. Exports which were declared at this consulate during 1917 and 1918 were as follows:

Articles.	1917		1918	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Bay oil.....pounds..	834	$1,042	1,723	$2,110
Vanilla beans.....do....	33,256	76,271	74,646	133,002
Vanillin.....do....	4,689	3,988	7,484	5,095
All other articles.....	.....	564	.....	2,719
Total.....	.....	81,865	.....	142,926

Returned American goods were worth $3,629 in 1917 and $2,857 in 1918, and consisted almost entirely of empty drums which were returned for refilling. No shipments were declared during the past two years for Hawaii or the Philippine Islands, or for Porto Rico in 1918. Shipments to Porto Rico in 1917 were valued at $1,477.

Agriculture Leading Industry of Guadeloupe.

Guadeloupe depends entirely upon agriculture for its prosperity, and the only industries of any importance are the cultivation of sugar cane, coffee, cacao, and vanilla, and the manufacture of sugar and rum. The crop of cacao for 1918 was very satisfactory as a result of favorable weather, and in spite of transportation difficulties splendid prices were obtained. Early in the year the average price was 2.45 francs per kilo (21.4 cents a pound), but increased demand caused continued augmentations, until in December the local buyers were paying as high as 3.80 francs a kilo (33.2 cents a pound).

While the coffee crop of 1917, which was exported in 1918, was good, that for 1918 was far below normal, owing to unfavorable weather at the time of flowering and the fatigue caused to the trees by the previous harvest. Coffee increased in value throughout the year. In January 3.20 francs per kilo (28 cents a pound) was paid, while the highest price in December was 5.10 francs per kilo (44.6 cents a pound).

The harvest of vanilla for 1918 was the largest ever produced here, and the buyers paid an average price of 20 francs per kilo ($1.75 a pound) for cured beans.

The production of sugar continues to decrease gradually. This is caused by lack of fertilizers, diseased canes, and failure to use modern methods of cultivation. With the exception of 1,500 tons, which were kept in the island for local consumption, the entire crop was requisitioned by the French Government, which paid at the rate of 77 francs per 100 kilos ($134.80 per ton).

The prices of rum were so high in France that the Government, as stated above, found it necessary to force the sugar centrals to cease making rum from the pure cane juice, which was needed for the manufacture of sugar. The average price of the rum shipped during 1918 was $1.72 a gallon. The total production was much greater than the quantity exported, and the warehouses still held rum for export at the end of 1918. The average amount consumed annually in the colony is 500,000 gallons.

Cultivation of Fruits and Vegetables—Live-Stock Industry—Labor Situation.

It is roughly estimated that 50,000 of the 160,000 cultivated acres in Guadeloupe are given over to the raising of fruits and vegetables. Although the production of these commodities is not sufficient for local consumption, little interest has been shown in the opening of new land for agricultural purposes. The same condition is true in the live-stock industry. The number of cattle raised does not supply the demand for work animals, and most of the cattle for slaughtering are brought from St. Martins and St. Barthelemy.

There were no serious labor troubles during 1918, although the employers complained of the scarcity and growing independence of the workers. Wages in the fields and centrals were increased early in the year, and bonuses were paid to those who worked steadily,

but this caused little improvement in the situation. On the coffee and cacao plantations portions of the crops were lost owing to lack of hands at harvest time. The average wage per day was 3.45 francs (66.5 cents).

Government Finances and Banking Matters.

By forcing the importers of Guadeloupe to purchase foreign goods which pay higher duties than those from France the war caused large increases in the revenues of the colony. The total receipts for 1918 amounted to $1,547,160 and the total expenses to $1,462,790, leaving a balance of $84,370 for the reserve. No public improvements of any importance were attempted.

The Banque de la Guadeloupe, a semiofficial institution with a capital of 3,000,000 francs ($579,000) was the only bank doing business in the island during 1918. By means of its connections with large banks of New York and Paris it was able to provide facilities for both importers and exporters, but complaints were made of the high commissions which it charged. Interest rates were 6 per cent for loans on crops and 7 per cent for all other loans. In selling drafts on New York the bank made the value of the dollar 15 centimes ($0.0289) higher than the rate quoted in New York and charged a commission of $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Many of the merchants found it more profitable to settle their accounts in the United States by means of drafts in francs on Paris, where a commission of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent is charged. The bank had a successful year. The dividends paid in 1918 amounted to 17 per cent, while those for 1917 were only 9 per cent. The following table contains items of interest taken from the bank's statements for December 31, 1917, June 30, 1918, and December 31, 1918:

Items.	Dec. 31, 1917.	June 30, 1918.	Dec. 31, 1918.
Loans:			
On crops	$337,210		$479,856
All other	462,713	$646,600	471,490
Reserve against circulation	691,180	656,000	716,000
Notes in circulation	2,105,657	2,744,275	2,439,300
Deposits	1,052,713	1,583,000	1,420,000

Lack of Shipping Space Serious Detriment to Export Trade.

The scarcity of tonnage was felt more than ever in 1918 and while there were enough vessels to provide all of Guadeloupe with necessities from abroad, great difficulty was experienced in securing transportation for the island's stocks of rum, coffee, and cacao. A number of Russian and Scandinavian sailing vessels were finally secured to carry the bulk of the rum to France, and the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, at the request of the French Government, consented to provide limited space in each homeward-bound steamer for cacao and coffee with the result that the stocks were much reduced at the end of the year.

The Quebec Steamship Co. continued its fortnightly passenger and freight service between the islands of the lesser Antilles and New York. A cargo vessel of the Grace Line called at Pointe a Pitre once every six weeks with freight from New Orleans, and the French company had passenger and freight steamers running fort-

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nightly between France and Martinique with calls at Guadeloupe on the outward and inward voyages. The Compagnie Générale Transatlantique abolished two lines of steamers in January, 1918. The large vessels ceased making the trips between Martinique and Colon and the small interisland steamer which had been on the line between Martinique and Cuba was sent to France. As a result interisland commerce had to depend almost entirely on small sailing vessels. During 1918, 344 vessels with a total tonnage of 218,780 cleared from the two ports of Gaudeloupe. Of these 126 were French, 143 British, and 16 American, with total tonnages of 103,960, 89,380, and 14,700 tons, respectively.

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